

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05477 201432Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05

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O R 201212Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8039

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS SY

SUBJ: PERES ON INTERIM AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA

1. IN SPEECH AUG 19, DEFMIN PERES STATED THAT IN THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT NOW UNDER DISCUSSION THE IDF RETAINS THE ALTERNATIVE OPTION TO DEFEND THE SINAI AS IN THE PAST. GOI PRESS BULLETIN QUOTES PERES AS ADDING "IF THE IDF WILL LOSE THIS OR THAT POSITION IN SINAI, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE EGYPTIANS WILL HAVE TO ADD NOT A FEW POINTS TO THEIR OWN MILITARY DISPOSITION".

2. PERES POINTED OUT THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN THE SINAI TODAY AND THE SITUATION TWO YEARS AGO WAS THAT THE EGYPTIANS NOW HAVE TO DEFEND A SUEZ CANAL OPEN TO SHIPPING AND IN THE PROCESS OF BEING WIDENED. EGYPT MOREOVER HAS TO PROTECT A NUMBER OF TOWNS ALONG THE CANAL, REPOPULATED WITH THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION PEOPLE, AS WELL
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05477 201432Z

AS THE LONG AND NARROW PASSAGE CONNECTING THE CANAL TOWNS WITH ABU RODEIS.

3. DURING VISIT TO GOLAN HEIGHTS SAME DAY, PERES TOLD

ISRAELI SETTLERS THAT "SYRIA IS SHOWING NO SIGNS INDICATING HER INTEREST IN AN INTERIM OR OVERALL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, BUT WE ARE PREPARED FOR AND INTERESTED IN AN AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA AS MUCH AS WITH EGYPT".

4. ANSWERING QUESTIONS CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF ISRAEL EVACUATING GOLAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA, PERES RESPONDED BY SAYING HE WAS NOT VISITING GOLAN SETTLEMENTS IN ORDER TO ANNOUNCE THEIR EVACUATION. HE ADDED THAT THE ISRAELI DESIRE FOR AN AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA DID NOT INCLUDE ANY PLAN TO REMOVE SETTLEMENTS FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

5. DURING MEETING WITH DRUZE NOTABLES LIVING ON GOLAN PERES ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF EXTENDED DRUZE FAMILIES SEPARAGED BY DISENGAGEMENT LINE. ACCORDING GOVT PRESS BULLETIN, DEFMIN SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD PROPOSED REUNIONS OF FAMILIES FROM BOTH SIDES OF LINE NEAR KUNEITRA AND WAS NOW AWAITING SYRIAN AGREEMENT.

6. COMMENT: PERES' STATEMENTS ON BOTH OCCASIONS APPEAR TO BE PART OF GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN TO SELL INTERIM AGREEMENT TO PUBLIC IN FACE OF INCREASINGLY ACTIVE MEDIA EFFORT BY THOSE ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO IT. HIS REMARKS ON THE GOLAN, WITH THEIR ALLUSION TO POSSIBLE INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA WILL BE INTERPRETED BY SOME HERE AS EFFORT TO ACQUAINT PUBLIC WITH POSSIBLE NECESSITY OF TACKLING GOLAN PROBLEM AFTER INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV05477
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750287-1265
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750898/baaaaexx.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971006
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, EC, IS, US, PFOR, (PERES, SHIMON)
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
JERUSALEM
JIDDA

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006